

## SILVER LAKE PARK.

THE BEGINNING OF STATEN ISLAND'S  
PARK SYSTEM.ASSOCIATIONS THAT CLUSTER ABOUT THE  
HILLSIDE LAKE THAT WILL FORM  
THE CENTRAL FEATURE OF  
THE PARK.

Unless the matter is carried to the Court of Appeals, which is said to be within the bounds of possibility though hardly likely, a public park is assured to Staten Island (Richmond County)—the first within its history. At Stapleton and Port Richmond there have been for years little parks, it is true, but these have been merely town squares in front of the town halls. The recent decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court confirms the validity of the Silver Lake Park act, long hotly contested, and makes Silver Lake Park a practical certainty.

Much more than one park is in reality behind this decision. Silver Lake Park is only one of a series of parks and boulevards that have been planned. The act spoken of provided only for some forty acres of land surrounding the basin of Silver Lake, Staten Island's largest body of water. This was to be the opening wedge. There was drawn, and is now in existence, likely to be brought forward again as soon as all the legal clouds have been swept away, a plan that would transform and beautify Staten Island as Bronx Borough is now being transformed and beautified. A chain of small parks is provided

bottom upward on the shore, and roofed pavilions are features of the present landscape. Close at hand is a great icehouse, marked by an incline for drawing up the blocks of ice. The lake is marshy in portions, and one section of it is popularly supposed to have no bottom. There is some peculiarity in the way this body of water is fed that Staten Islanders have never been able to fathom. They say no stream runs into it.

It was this report, probably, that led Maurice F. Holahan, president of the Board of Public Improvements, to say in a newspaper interview shortly after his installation that it was possible that all these little lakes of Staten Island would be drained off and the land reclaimed. Silver Lake stands on the ridge, in old Castle-ton town. From St. George Landing it is distant about ten minutes' trolley along the Richmond Turnpike. Much of the land around it is the old Frelinghuysen property.

Here, the tradition is, was a favorite haunt of the Aquehonga Indians, brothers of the Delawares, across in New Jersey. Ira K. Morris, the Staten Island historian, who is an official of the borough government, has much that is interesting to say about these Indians of the Staten Island hills. That the Aquehonga were much in evidence about Silver Lake is told in the many relics, the spear heads and the arrows that have been picked up on its shores. There is an even more important Indian circumstance to be brought forward. Proof is not lacking from the remains that have been found and from tradition that close to Silver Lake the Aquehonga manufactured a goodly quantity of wampum, using the oyster shells from the bay's shores below. The region of Silver Lake was, indeed, the Indian "mint." This was brought out in investigations made by the American Natural Science Association of Staten Island.

## ASSOCIATIONS OF THE PLACE.

Nor does Silver Lake find all its memories in Indian times. A Hessian encampment was here,

Prior to the Xmas Holidays,  
L. P. HOLLANDER & CO.,

290 Fifth Avenue,

ARE OFFERING

## MODEL DRESSES, TAILOR SUITS

Coats, Evening Wraps  
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AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

## REINDEER IN ALASKA.

SUPERINTENDENT KJELLMAN BELIEVES THAT

THEY WILL SERVE A GOOD PURPOSE.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—A dispatch to "The Tribune" from Madison, Wis., says that William A. Kjellman, who has charge of the Government reindeer station

## Horner's Furniture.

AS TO GIFTS.

Those in quest of Gifts that combine utility with beauty—the useful with the ornamental—and which will be a constant reminder of the giver, should visit our store, where will be found larger assortments and better values than elsewhere in

Writing Desks,  
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Inlaid Chairs,  
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VERNIS-MARTIN FURNITURE  
comprises everything manufactured  
in this line.R. J. HORNER & CO.,  
Furniture Makers and Importers.  
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(Adjoining Eden Musee).

## A HUGE TELESCOPE.

NOTES ON THE ASTRONOMICAL SECTION  
OF THE PARIS EXPOSITION.HOW THE OBJECT GLASSES WERE MADE—LE PA-  
LAIS DE L'OPTIQUE AND ITS INTER-  
ESTING CONTENTS.

Paris, November 29.

The works connected with the great telescope and siderostat are now nearly completed. The huge cast-iron bases have already been mounted in the Palais de l'Optique, near the southwest corner of the Eiffel Tower.

The appearance of the instrument is most imposing. Its dimensions are such that, were it to stand vertically, it would rise as high as the top of the steeple of Notre Dame Cathedral. The casting and polishing of the large mirror, 79 inches in diameter and weighing three and one-half tons, have been most successfully completed. The casting was done by the glass-makers of Jeumont, and M. Gautier, optician of the Paris Observatory, has given the mirror a perfectly flat surface by means of the ingenious contrivances which are described in The Tribune on August 21. Tested on a candle flame by Miss Dorothy Klumpke, of California, who is attached to the astronomical staff of the Paris

## "Buy China and Glass Right"

HIGGINS & SEITER  
FINE CHINA  
RICH CUT GLASS.

MESSRS. HIGGINS & SEITER, Dealers in Fine China and Rich Cut Glass, take pleasure in calling attention of the readers of THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE to the Grand Holiday Exhibit, now on view at Nos. 50, 52 and 54 West 22d Street.—From small beginnings this unique establishment has grown in extent and popularity till it is not only recognized by Metropolitan buyers as affording the widest scope for selection of the beautiful wares of which it makes a specialty, but its reputation, based on the famous policy, "Prices always at least 1-4 less than elsewhere," is as wide as the Continent itself.—Naturally, with all the gift-making potentialities of Glass and China, the great "Present" Store of the United States, with the largest stock of these goods in America, if not in the world, at this season, assumes commanding interest.—Some of the reasons why will be found in the following paragraphs—and prices:

## English China Game-Plates

Out of several dozen English china game-plates we would like you to see one set. There is not a duplicate in this entire country. They were painted by the celebrated game and fish artist, and are of a quality and finish that will undoubtedly be worth several times what we now ask for them. Each plate is signed by the artist, has a different subject, and is a work of art in itself. Our price for the 12 plates is \$400.00

## Teakwood

Many months ago we placed with the largest manufacturer of Teakwood furniture in Canton, China, a very large order for Teakwood to come to us direct by sailing vessel. We thus not only eliminated the middleman's profit, but effected quite a saving in freight. This shipment arrived several weeks ago and since then our cabinet men have been working day and night to get it in absolutely perfect condition, reglazing, rubbing, polishing, etc. Thus we can now offer you Teakwood 18 INCHES. Much of the Teakwood is put upon the market and sold without this precaution. To give you an idea of the importance of this sale we mention one only as an example of 50 others: Hand-carved pedestals thirty-six inches high, eleven inches across, marble top, each \$12.00. Mail orders will be filled as long as they last.

## Rich Cut Glass

The phenomenal growth of our Cut Glass department must naturally find expression here, and one entire floor is now devoted to this magnificent exhibit—unmatched by a single specimen anywhere else. This is a very large order for Teakwood to come to us direct by sailing vessel. We thus not only eliminated the middleman's profit, but effected quite a saving in freight. This shipment arrived several weeks ago and since then our cabinet men have been working day and night to get it in absolutely perfect condition, reglazing, rubbing, polishing, etc. Thus we can now offer you Teakwood 18 INCHES. Much of the Teakwood is put upon the market and sold without this precaution. To give you an idea of the importance of this sale we mention one only as an example of 50 others: Hand-carved pedestals thirty-six inches high, eleven inches across, marble top, each \$12.00. Mail orders will be filled as long as they last.

## Cut Glass Punch Bowl

Magnificent cut-glass punch bowl, 14 inches high, 14 inches across, heavy glass, heavily engraved with a single specimen anywhere else. This is a very large order for Teakwood to come to us direct by sailing vessel. We thus not only eliminated the middleman's profit, but effected quite a saving in freight. This shipment arrived several weeks ago and since then our cabinet men have been working day and night to get it in absolutely perfect condition, reglazing, rubbing, polishing, etc. Thus we can now offer you Teakwood 18 INCHES. Much of the Teakwood is put upon the market and sold without this precaution. To give you an idea of the importance of this sale we mention one only as an example of 50 others: Hand-carved pedestals thirty-six inches high, eleven inches across, marble top, each \$12.00. Mail orders will be filled as long as they last.

## Cut Glass and Sterling Silver

We have recently made important additions to our cut-glass and sterling silver. We have a most complete line of decanters, salad bowls, fruit napkins, punch bowls, ladies' bonbons, loving cups, etc.

## Sterling Mounted Salad Bowls

Very rich cut and sterling-mounted 8-inch bowls, fruit, salad, or berry bowls, mounted at \$15.00

Those desiring to purchase now can have the goods held and delivered at any date desired. Brooklyn deliveries and calls are now made by our own wagons, thus insuring perfect satisfaction to our Brooklyn patrons.

Open Evenings until Christmas, commencing Monday, Dec. 11.  
50-54 W. 22nd Street.

Wedding Gifts a Specialty.

## Introduction in a cold oven provided with a

lantern. The crucible, which terminated in a dome, had the form of a cylinder, thirty-nine inches high, and was made of a material which could stand some 1,320 pounds of crown and 2,200 of flint glass, the density of the former being much inferior to that of the latter. The oven was then filled with the molten glass, and the mouth of the crucible, which was heated slowly and gradually until, at the end of thirty hours, a white heat was obtained. Upon introducing the vitrifiable materials, into the mouth of the crucible they swelled to such an extent that it was found necessary to throw only a small quantity of them at a time. Failing that precaution the greater part of the mat-ter escaped into the oven. It was only after eighteen hours of successive fillings that the crucible was full. At that time the glass was replete with bubbles. Finally, eight or ten hours after the last filling, the heat was raised to 1,600 or 1,800 degrees Centigrade, when some of the bricks of the oven were melting.

The heating having been stopped glass samples were taken with spoons in the boiling mass and permitted to cool. They were then examined microscopically. When bubbles were found and a considerable part of the surface of the glass was taken away, so as to deprive it of spots and other imperfections. The stirring was by far the most delicate operation of all was the stirring, whose property is to mix so intimately the vitrified parts as to give them the appearance of a solid mass. The stirring was effected by means of a long hook, raised previously to a white heat and connected with an iron bar suspended by a chain from a point above the oven. A wooden handle enabled the workmen to impart to the agitator a backward and forward as well as a rotary motion. For this exceedingly trying work, which lasted from ten to fifteen hours, four men, working under the superintendence of M. Mantois, were alternately employed.

The reduction of temperature made the glass viscous, when the hook, whose movements were thereby rendered impossible, was carefully removed. The solidified glass then yielded a crystalline sound when struck by an iron rod. But reheating was necessary in order to avoid the danger of the glass cracking. The reheating was effected by means of a long hook, raised previously to a white heat and connected with an iron bar suspended by a chain from a point above the oven. A wooden handle enabled the workmen to impart to the agitator a backward and forward as well as a rotary motion. For this exceedingly trying work, which lasted from ten to fifteen hours, four men, working under the superintendence of M. Mantois, were alternately employed.

In order to make a flint glass weighing 794 pounds a glass block of more than 1,300 pounds was necessary. Once found, this block, to which adhered parts of the crucible, was removed from the oven and placed on a truck. Glass slices were then sawed away from the main piece in order to obtain polished surfaces capable of thorough inspection. Owing to the fact that the sides and surface of the crucible cooled more quickly than the center and bottom, striae were visible almost everywhere in the glass. Scratches near the surface could be easily removed with a saw or by the use of silica powder. Deep laid defects were raised to the surface and removed by moulding the glass.

Placed in a mould of refractory earth the block was introduced into an oven heated to 800 or 900 degrees Centigrade, where it was smoothed down to take the form of the mould. A slow baking then followed, after which the superficial defects were removed. Other imperfections still remaining in the depth of the glass were removed by a second moulding, lasting for another baking and a long cooling, lasting some three weeks.

No wonder that after all these operations the actual cost of the two object glasses came to \$30,000. To transport these valuable lenses from the workshops of M. Mantois to M. Gautier, the optician of the Paris Observatory, the makers wrapped them carefully in flannels and by wooden supports fixed them immovably in a carriage provided with pneumatic tires.

At the south end of the palace there is a large hall, where visitors will be enabled to examine images of the sun and moon projected on a gigantic scale. Sun spots may be advantageously scrutinized in this way, although the spotless period through which the sun is now passing will not afford any very remarkable outbursts. The astronomers also fear that the feeble light of the moon will be far too much attenuated by any distant projection.

The decorations of the walls of the central gallery will be of an exclusively astronomical character. Large panels measuring twenty square yards are being placed on the ground floor on each side of the telescope. In these panels the planets will be depicted on a scale of eighty inches in diameter. The panels showing Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are being painted by M. Antoniad, astronomer attached to M. Flammarion's observatory at Juvisy. Smaller paintings representing the configuration of the stars in the various constellations will decorate the walls of the upper gallery. Perhaps the greatest attraction in astronomical painting will be a chart of Mars on Mercator's projection, drawn on a gigantic scale and presenting to the eye all the knowledge of that planet that science has so far been able to obtain.

Some of the numerous side halls will be used as lecture rooms. Quantities of lantern slides showing the most remarkable clusters of stars and nebulae of both hemispheres have already been received, and the observatories of both Europe and America have contributed collections of astronomical drawings and celestial photographs of the highest interest, which are now being placed in the most advantageous positions for exhibition.

C. I. B.

## ONE MULE AND HIS HALTER LOST.

ARMY BOARD OF SURVEY TO INQUIRE INTO THIS MATTER.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—Army officers of high rank attached to the Department of the Lakes have been appointed to serve on a Board of Survey to investigate the circumstances attending the loss of one mule and a halter, the property of the United States, which recently disappeared from Fort Thomas, Ky. The red tape of Army regulations made necessary the appointment of the Board, in order that the responsibility for the loss may be definitely determined.

First Lieutenant Harrison J. Price, 2d United States Infantry, was accountable for the property in his capacity as quartermaster at Fort Thomas, but it is probable that a score of witnesses will have to be examined. General Anderson, commander of the Department of the Lakes, today appointed the following Board of Survey to act in that capacity: Major William F. Tucker, chief quartermaster of the Department of the Lakes; Major E. L. Higgins, acting inspector general of the Department of the Lakes; and Captain Alfred A. Frost, 2d United States Infantry Regiment.

## ELECTROLYSIS IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—The law department of the city government is preparing an opinion as to the power of the city to force street railway companies to provide their rails with proper connection to prevent leakage of electricity, and the subsequent damage to water and other pipes laid below the tracks.

A burst in a water main was reported, and workmen found on laying bare the pipe that a hole an inch in diameter had been eaten entirely through the pipe, while in other portions immediately about the leak the pipe was almost as badly eaten away. The leak was nine feet below the surface of the ground, immediately under a street car line. In another street an 18-inch main burst, and when excavation was made it was found that a large hole had been eaten through the iron. This main was also nine feet below the street car tracks. The city electrician has had trouble with electrolytic action on conduits for electric light and telephone wires, and on several occasions has been obliged to tear up conduits that are practically newly laid.



THE WESTERN SHORE OF SILVER LAKE, STATEN ISLAND.

for, wide boulevards and driveways extending out, one to Port Richmond, another to New-Brighton, a third to Richmond, the old county seat; a fourth sweeping around by the Country Club at Dongan Hills. These parks were all to be on the ridge, and the boulevards were to join them, dropping then to the shore and the back country. Up on the ridge, or rather on the southwestern slope of it, are a number of little bodies of water known as the Clove Lakes. Their region is the Valley of the Clove. The little parks projected were to fringe these lakes.

## SITUATION OF SILVER LAKE.

Thus was a Staten Island park system projected—its architect having been Nathan Barrett, of New-York. The Silver Lake Park (Silver Lake being really one of the Clove Lakes) was the opening feature of the programme. This was chosen from the fact that, besides being the largest, Silver Lake is one of the most picturesque and most elevated bodies of water on the island, its elevation being 202 feet, at the highest point of the island, 417 feet—said to have the honor of being the highest sheet of water within the boundaries of New-York. As a preliminary park the lands about Silver Lake have the great advantage of adjoining the Richmond Turnpike, a fine stretch of macadam, and thus would be immediately available for the driving public.

The act creating Silver Lake Park was passed early in 1897, being Chapter 434 of the laws of that year. It directed the issue of bonds to the amount of \$60,000, the cost of the complete park system having been estimated at some \$100,000, and provided for five Commissioners, to be appointed by the Governor; \$5,000 of the \$60,000 was to be expended on surveying, \$50,000 in acquiring the property, the remaining \$5,000 on improving it. Governor Black named as Commissioners George Cromwell, now President of the Borough of Richmond; Charles A. Jones, Albert H. Cunningham, Arthur Hollick and John D. Coleman.

## LEGAL COMPLICATIONS.

Preliminary work was at once started, the necessary surveys being made by Theodore S. Oxholm. Then began a curious chapter in the history of this matter. The law bringing into existence the charter of the greater city anticipated this act, being Chapter 578. There was no reference in the Silver Lake act to the charter, and it was at once contended that its provisions were invalid. Previous to the coming in of the greater city the Richmond County Board of Supervisors had been asked for \$5,000 for expenses. When, on January 1, 1898, this Board went out of existence and Richmond County became Richmond Borough, the Commission found itself absolutely without funds. The New-York City officials contended that there was legally no such Commission, that its powers had passed, if it had ever had any powers, into the hands of the Board of Public Improvements.

As time went on the Commission dwindled to three members. Mr. Cromwell resigned on being elected president of Richmond Borough, and Mr. Jones on accepting another official place. The act had provided that the Commission might fill its own vacancies with the confirmation of the Board of Supervisors, but there were no Supervisors to confirm the selections. Walter C. Kerr and Joseph Simonson, were named in the places of Cromwell and Jones, and the Councilmen and members of the Assembly for Richmond were asked to meet and confirm them. This, however, they have never both remained unpaid, under these circumstances, though the park's map and rolls were complete. The secretary, James T. Elliott, as a taxpayer, took measures to force the issue and test the validity of the act. He brought the matter into court, and it is upon his suit that the present decision was rendered. Meantime, park and Commission have been at a standstill for two years.

There is a great deal that is more than ordinarily interesting about the square of land that is soon to be, in all probability, Silver Lake Park. Including the lake it measures from sixty to seventy acres, and if the plan as proposed by Nathan Barrett is carried out, it will be by far the largest park in the Richmond County system, with the exception of a projected park near Richmond, which Mr. Barrett mapped out for two hundred acres or so.

## FEATURES OF THE PARK SITE.

Groves of oak and chestnut, with cedars here and there, fringe Silver Lake. A quaint hotel or country inn, with many boats now lying

and Revolutionary history has a reference here and there to this lake basin on the wooded slope. At a later date Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry D. Thoreau touched it. Emerson's brother, William Emerson, was a county judge of Richmond County, and lived in a house on the Richmond Turnpike. Thoreau was for a time a teacher in the Judge's family, and in his writings appear some descriptions of Silver Lake. Mr. Morris is the authority for this important connection of the coming park with American literature.

A later period shadows a tragedy on the Silver Lake region. A man named Rheinhardt, living near here, murdered his wife. Whether he intended to bury the body or sink it in the lake was never known. He packed it in a barrel and started trundling it along in a wheelbarrow. Upon a hilltop close to the lake the barrel fell off and rolled swiftly down the hill. A man who happened at hand went up to help him, and discovered the crime. Rheinhardt's arrest, trial and conviction then followed. This was in 1878, or thereabouts, and the hanging of

In Alaska, has returned to this city to spend the winter with his family. Mr. Kjellman takes a more hopeful view of the reindeer experiment than do a great many others. He says the reindeer will eventually be useful as a food supply and in furnishing a means of transportation.

Mr. Kjellman took the first deer into Alaska in the summer of 1894, when he transported 400 across from Siberia. He had been in the business of reindeer raising in Lapland before coming to this country, which led to his selection as reindeer superintendent in Alaska. Since then he has brought two herds of these animals from Lapland.

There are now 2,600 reindeer at the seven Alaska stations. The rate of increase in the herd is about the same as that of cattle. Mr. Kjellman says the reindeer are good transportation animals on the coast for distances up to two hundred miles, but when driven that distance they feed does not furnish them the strength needed to withstand great exertion. He thinks they would do better as transportation beasts on the horse diet of oats and hay, and that such food would tend to increase their size and weight. Accompanying Mr. Kjellman is



THE ROAD TO SILVER LAKE FROM RICHMOND TURNPIKE.

this criminal at Richmond was the first execution there for half a century, it is said. It proved, also, the last.

The Richmond Turnpike, which runs alongside of this ground, is a locally famous road. It here enjoys more than local fame, indeed, for here was where the old Vanderbilt stages from Baltimore to New-York ran. Local report is not certain whether the stages themselves were ferried over to Staten Island's main road, extending east and west, from Tompkinsville to the Arthur Kill, at a point near the present Lincolnville, opposite Carteret, N. J. Thence they were ferried over to the Jersey shore, and proceeded on their way. At the old wharf on the Arthur Kill there are remains of the old corduroy road of those days. The Richmond Turnpike now does not extend further than Lincolnville, nor has it for twenty years. It is a fine stretch of macadam.

## NAVAL BATTALION ATHLETICS.

The First Naval Battalion will drill on the New-Hampshire Tuesday night, and a dance will follow. The battalion has formed an athletic association, and at a meeting of the association on Tuesday evening last, the following were elected officers: S. B. Austin, petty staff, chairman; E. L. Mitchell, 2d division, manager of track athletics. The association has organized an indoor baseball team, and has joined the Army Indoor Baseball League. The battalion will give a large ball early in January, on the New-Hampshire, for the benefit of the Athletic Association.

## THE TEACHERS' COLLEGE AT COLUMBIA.

The Students' Club at Teachers College, Columbia University, which is the centre of a large part of the social life of that institution, is at work rehearsing its midwinter play, which takes place annually about the time of the Christmas holidays. The play this year is "The Scheme that Failed," and will be produced shortly after New Year's in the college gymnasium, with the following cast: Ned Jennings, Mr. Boone; Jack Craven, Mr. Bacon; Mrs. Jennings, Miss Pierson; Dorothy, Miss Lyon; Bridget O'Flynn, Miss Sanders. The first of a series of informal dances was held yesterday evening, and was well attended by the students and their friends.

## NEW CAPTAIN OF COMPANY C.

First Lieutenant Charles A. Meyer, Jr., Company 1, 9th Regiment, has been unanimously elected captain of Company C, vice Quinby. Captain Meyer entered the Guard as a private in the 24th Regiment in September, 1895, and was elected second lieutenant of Company D, 9th Regiment, on June 15, 1898, and first lieutenant of Company 1, on August 18, 1898. He served as a lieutenant in the volunteer regiment during the Spanish war.

Observatory, the figuring has been found to be very satisfactory indeed.

Of the two object glasses, visual and photographic, the latter has already received its finishing touches. M. Gautier is still engaged in figuring the former. These glasses are of course not so heavy as the mirror, the weight of each not exceeding 704 pounds. This is due to their thinness and to the slight curvature resulting from the enormous focal length of the telescope. The difficulties were nevertheless immense, for the glass employed must be absolutely free from bubbles, striae, sandholes or other imperfections throughout its thickness, and must be of exactly equal density in all its parts. The ingenuity of the makers has, in the judgment of the astronomical staff of the Paris Observatory, surmounted all these and other obstacles, which are of such a technical nature that it would be impossible fully to appreciate them without the aid of complicated diagrams.

M. Mantois, the founder of most of the largest sized astronomical object glasses in Europe and the United States, has very courteously supplied some highly interesting details of the preparation of these huge disks, which I transcribe exactly as he related them to me:

A dry crucible of refractory earth was first